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Confinement.	Probability of Dying.	Probability of Living.
1.....	0.0087	0.9913
2.....	0.0066	0.9934
3.....	0.0055	0.9945
4.....	0.0052	0.9948
5.....	0.0052	0.9948
6.....	0.0057	0.9943
7.....	0.0064	0.9936
8.....	0.0074	0.9926

In the discussion which followed it was asserted that the maternal mortality in London was not nearly as high as that shown for New South Wales. A mortality of 1 per cent would be considered monstrous. If New South Wales were so unfortunate as to have a mortality of 1 in 121, something should be done.

#### NOTE ON THE TREASURY ESTIMATES FOR 1900.

At the second session of the 54th Congress there was appropriated for the expenses of the government in the fiscal year 1898, a year of peace, the sum of \$433,069,740.\* On the following year the appropriations for the same purposes would have been \$453,661,078. The war appropriations increased this sum to \$793,305,690. The Secretary of the Treasury asks in his estimates for the year 1900 the sum of \$588,782,491. This is an increase of 36 per cent over the appropriations for 1898, and of 32 per cent over those for 1899. Almost every dollar of this increase is for unproductive expenditure. Of this increased expenditure the leading items are :—

	1898.	1900.	Increase.
Army, . . . . .	\$23,129,344	\$145,119,432	\$121,990,088
Navy, . . . . .	33,003,234	39,114,652	6,111,418
Pensions, . . . . .	141,263,880	145,233,830	3,969,950
Fortifications (home),	9,517,141	12,151,898	2,634,757

These four items account for an increase of \$134,706,213 out of a total increase of \$155,712,751, or 86 per cent.

Hardly a department of the government does not add items of cost incident to the control of the late Spanish possessions, but we need not stop to enumerate them.

\* Post office appropriations and expenditures are omitted.

The government of the islands will be a military government. But no sums are asked to construct and equip the necessary coast and harbor defences necessary to such government; or for the improvement of harbors and waterways, cleansing of cities and towns, relief of the needy, and the many items of expense incident to the occupation of distant and unprotected possessions, populated by poor and untaught peoples, oppressed into insurrection, and undisciplined to control of any kind. The cost of administering justice will not be small; the actual rebellion of the people against our rule is a possibility, even a probability; and the sullen opposition of a home-rule element must be faced. The islands will not be self-supporting to the extent of providing for such contingencies as rebellion, and so the annual cost to the people of the United States must be increased, even as an insurance against an uprising.

Assuming that the War Department has asked sufficient for the mere occupation of the islands, and the enlarged military establishment for police purposes, it will be seen there are other large and uncertain items of cost unprovided for, and the annual appropriations will in future be nearer \$200,000,000 in excess of those of 1898 than \$155,712,751.

An annual increased expenditure of \$200,000,000 means a continuance of "war taxation" and an addition of new taxes, or borrowing by the government to meet current expenses of government.

The total revenue from the two great and regular sources of income for the fiscal year 1898 was:—

From internal revenue, . . . . .	\$170,900,641
Customs, . . . . .	149,575,062
Miscellaneous sources, . . . . .	20,000,000
Total, . . . . .	<u>\$340,475,703</u>

The amounts derived from the sales of the Pacific Railroads, a windfall not to be repeated, brought the total income to \$405,321,335. Compared with the appropriations for 1898 there would have been a deficit of \$27,748,405; or excluding the sums received from the Pacific Railroads, one of \$92,499,629. This on a peace basis!

Mr. Gages estimates the revenue for 1900 to be:—

Customs, . . . . .	\$205,000,000
Internal revenue, . . . . .	285,000,000
Miscellaneous, . . . . .	20,000,000
Total, . . . . .	<u>\$510,000,000</u>

giving a deficit of \$78,782,491 for that year — a year of peace, with war taxation to produce revenue. Every dollar of additional revenue from customs and internal revenue will be swallowed up in unproductive expenditure incident to the occupation of the late Spanish islands.

Estimates of the Treasury err on the side of a favorable showing. Trade must continue in high prosperity to yield the amount expected, and the condition thus pictured is the best that can be shown. For every good year there will be one or more bad years, when the deficit will be increased. For the estimates of expenditure for 1900 are such as must continue for many years; the revenue is placed at the highest notch.

An average deficit of \$100,000,000 a year will not be an excessive estimate. This means the taking each year from productive industry of a sum representing the interest (at 3 per cent) on \$3,333,000,000, and is equivalent to adding that sum to the national debt, but with this difference: the bond of the national debt is redeemable after a certain number of years, but this new charge represents a perpetual debt.

The capital of the debt of the United States at the end of 1898 was \$1,047,320,000. The new expenditure will be equivalent to increasing it to \$4,380,000,000. The debt of France is \$6,218,871,340; Great Britain, \$3,203,868,395. This gives us the second largest debt in the world!

In 1898 the per capita rate of taxation for national purposes was \$4.34.

On the estimates of Mr. Gage the rate in 1900 will be \$6.36 — an increase of more than 46 per cent.

This rests on the assumption that the estimates are correct, and takes no account of the reduction in customs incident to the free admission into the United States of tropical products. This would result in an additional sum of \$80,000,000 to be obtained by new taxes, or a burden of \$1.04 on every head of population, to be paid in taxes other than the customs or internal taxes now in force.

But the country is now taxed at a war rate, and where are the new sources of revenue to be found to meet this demand for nearly \$160,000,000 a year?

WORTHINGTON C. FORD.